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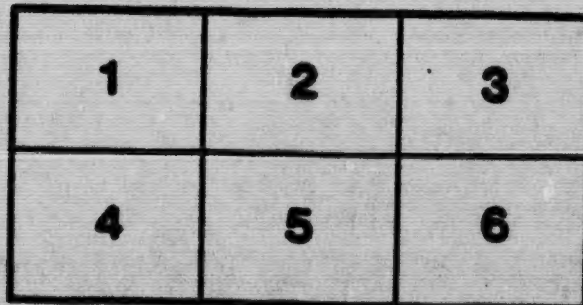
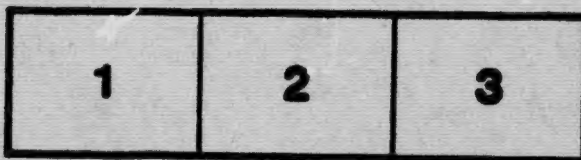
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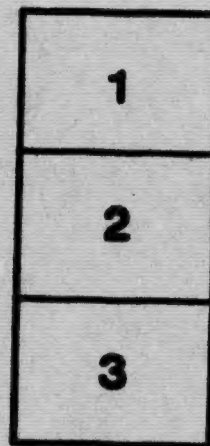
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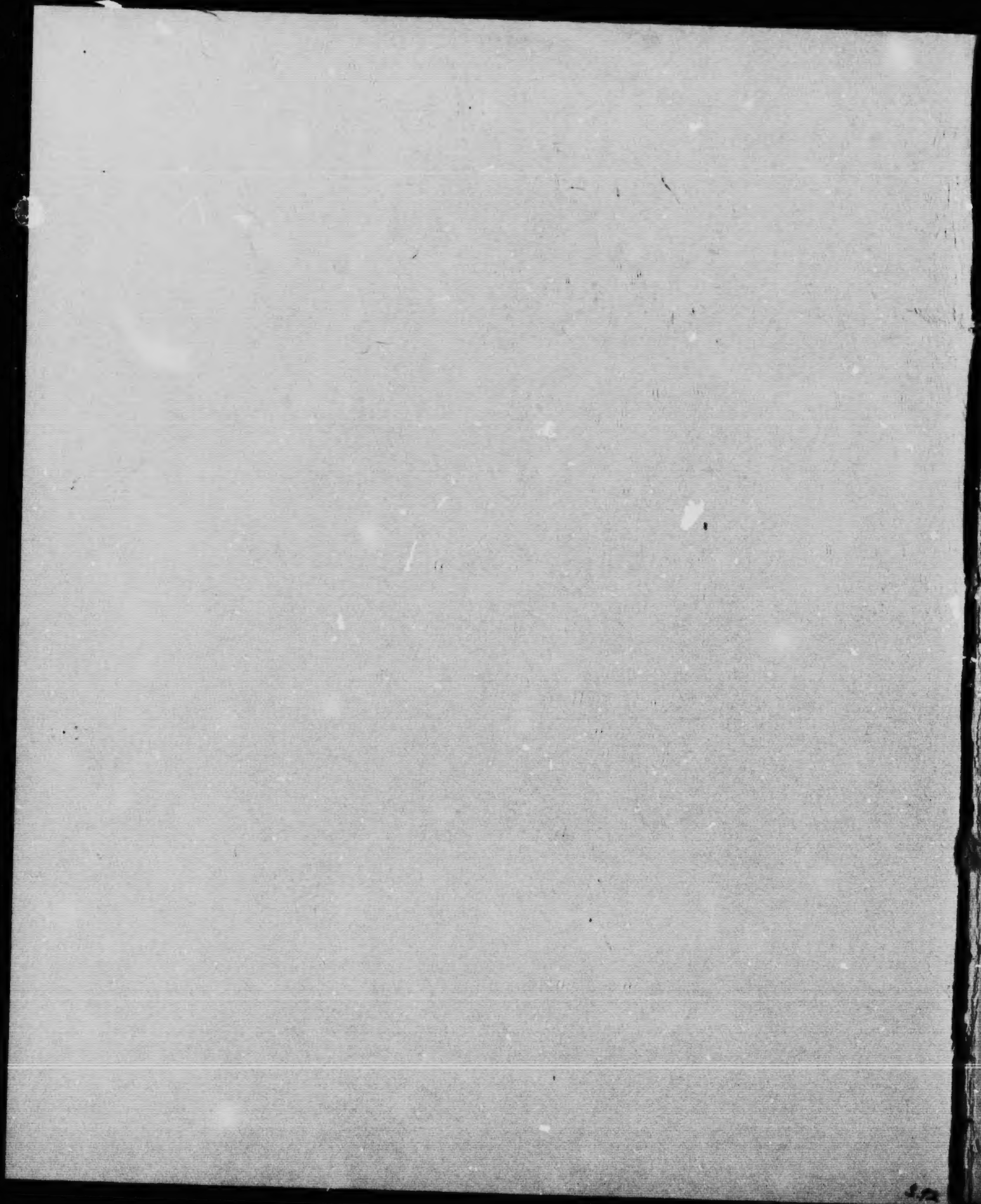
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# THE CANADIAN BANK OF COMMERCE.



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REESTABLISHED  
ANNO DNI, 1867.

A DESCRIPTION OF THE PRESENTATION  
 TO SIR EDMUND WALKER, C.V.O., COM-  
 MEMORATING HIS ENTERING THE SERVICE  
 OF THE CANADIAN BANK OF COMMERCE  
 ON THE 24<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF JULY, M.D.C.C.C.LX.VIII.



THE text of the illuminated book presented to Sir Edmund by the Board of Directors consists of the formal resolution, offering their congratulations and recording their appreciation of the President's half century of continuous service, followed by an account of Sir Edmund's activities from the pen of Dr. Charles Colby.

The book and the casket containing the same were designed and executed by Mr. A. Scott Carter, while the mounting of the jewels, the goldsmith work and the enamelling were carried out by Mr. A. M. Doret.

Bound in blue silk velvet, overlaid with two fretted and richly chased gold plates, the book is a fine example of what can be accomplished in Canada in the way of delicate goldsmith work and ornamental design in the style of sixteenth century Italian art. The gold plates are panelled and divided into small compartments containing alternate acanthus leaf and dolphin designs and small figures holding horns of plenty. The fretwork of gold over the blue velvet produces a singularly beautiful effect. The borders are enriched with crystals, synthetic rubies and coloured enamels, smaller stones being set at the corners of the inscription. Inserted in the centre of the front cover is the President's coat-of-arms, and on the back cover an enamelled oval containing his crest, motto and monogram. Both devices are emblazoned in their proper colours in enamel, and are joined to the inscription and border by a fretted conventional acanthus leaf design. The clasp of the volume is formed by a miniature gold figure, finely chased, of Venus rising from the sea.

The Bank is represented in the cover decoration by its coat-of-arms and the Caduceus on two enamelled shields forming part of the border of the front

cover on either side of the President's arms. His active interest in the University of Toronto is symbolized by the shields of the University and of University College similarly placed on the back cover.

It was the intention of the gift, and the idea has been admirably carried out by the artist, to express the spirit of a noble conception of duty and its thorough execution. While the first claim to service has always been recognized as that of the Bank, the President has shown again and again the importance he attaches to the activities in Canada of education, art, music, science and historical research. The note of trusteeship that runs through the Bank's traditions continues through the whole gamut of the President's avocations and interests. In the decorative scheme of the book, this note is expressed by the preponderance of heraldic bearings and seals of institutions which he either founded or helped to found. Thus, the full-page borders of the illuminated text contain the seals of five corporate bodies of which Sir Edmund is President: the National Gallery of Canada; the Art Gallery of Toronto and the Royal Ontario Museum, both of which were established largely through his efforts; the Champlain Society, which he formed; and Appleby School, which he helped to found.

The book is written upon pure white vellum in a small Roman hand, with the large capital letters illuminated in gold and colours, the small initial letters in gold on blue and red grounds with gold filigree ornamental filling. A delicate burnished gold frame surrounds each page. The design of the full-page borders, based upon the well-known candelabra and acanthus leaf motif of the Renaissance period, is varied by the introduction of winged demi-figures, grotesque heads and cameo-like medallions representing Commerce, Music, Art, etc. A fretwork of gold and ivory over a background of warm blue is thus again produced, as in the case of the metal and velvet of the cover. There are, among these cameos, some exquisite little figures of Venus and Mercury, a head of Minerva, and a scene from a Greek dance.

The title-page contains the coat-of-arms of The Canadian Bank of Commerce, in its proper colours, within an architectural setting and supported by two Cupids. Dr. Charles Colby's appreciation is faced by the President's arms.

The casket enclosing the book is made of mahogany overlaid with modelled and gilded "gesso" work and is reminiscent of the best abrine decoration of the Italian artists of the sixteenth century. The fish-scale pattern on the coffer-shaped lid, the delicate border designs and the elaborate gilt acanthus and rose



The Casket is executed in  
gilded gesso and colour.



modelling of the sides are fine examples of this particular style of art. A rich band of colour is formed by the emblazoned heraldic devices on the front and sides of the casket, showing the armorial shields of the Province of Ontario, the University of Toronto, University College, The Canadian Bank of Commerce and of the President. The presentation inscription in Roman letters, gilt upon a blue ground, surrounds the top of the casket. The handle and key are of chased bronze, heavily gilt.

The inside of the lid is coffered, and divided into panels painted in brilliant colours on dull gold grounds. The centre panel bears the Walker shield, supported on either side by reclining figures representing Art and Music. The four outer panels are filled with cinquecento ornament—arabesques, birds, grotesque heads and demi-figures. Introduced into the upper and lower panels are the cross of a Knight of Grace of the Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem in England and the badge of a Commander of the Victorian Order. The box is lined with the same Venetian blue silk velvet as used for the binding of the book, powdered with small gold stars.

The casket is enclosed in a red morocco case richly gold-tooled, and is fastened with a wrought silver clasp.



The open Casket, showing  
workmanship of the inside of  
the cover.

EXTRACT FROM THE MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CANADIAN BANK OF  
COMMERCE, HELD ON FRIDAY, 24TH JULY, 1918.

**T**HE Board of Directors of The Canadian Bank of Commerce desire to record their gratification that the President of the Bank, Sir Edmund Walker, C.V.O., LL.D., D.C.L., has been able, since 24th July 1868 to render to the Bank continuous and invaluable service. The Directors extend to him hearty congratulations, and express their hope that he may be able, for many years, to preside as President and give to the Bank the benefit of his long and unequalled experience in all matters affecting its interests.

Sir Edmund entered the service on 24th July 1868 at the age of twenty years as a junior clerk, but even at that early age with an experience of seven years in the office of his uncle, a private banker in Hamilton, Ontario. His progress was rapid and continuous, and step by step his positions in the Bank gave him a varied and comprehensive experience of banking in all aspects. While in the management of the New York branch he was appointed General Manager in the year 1886, which position he held until 1907 when he was appointed President.

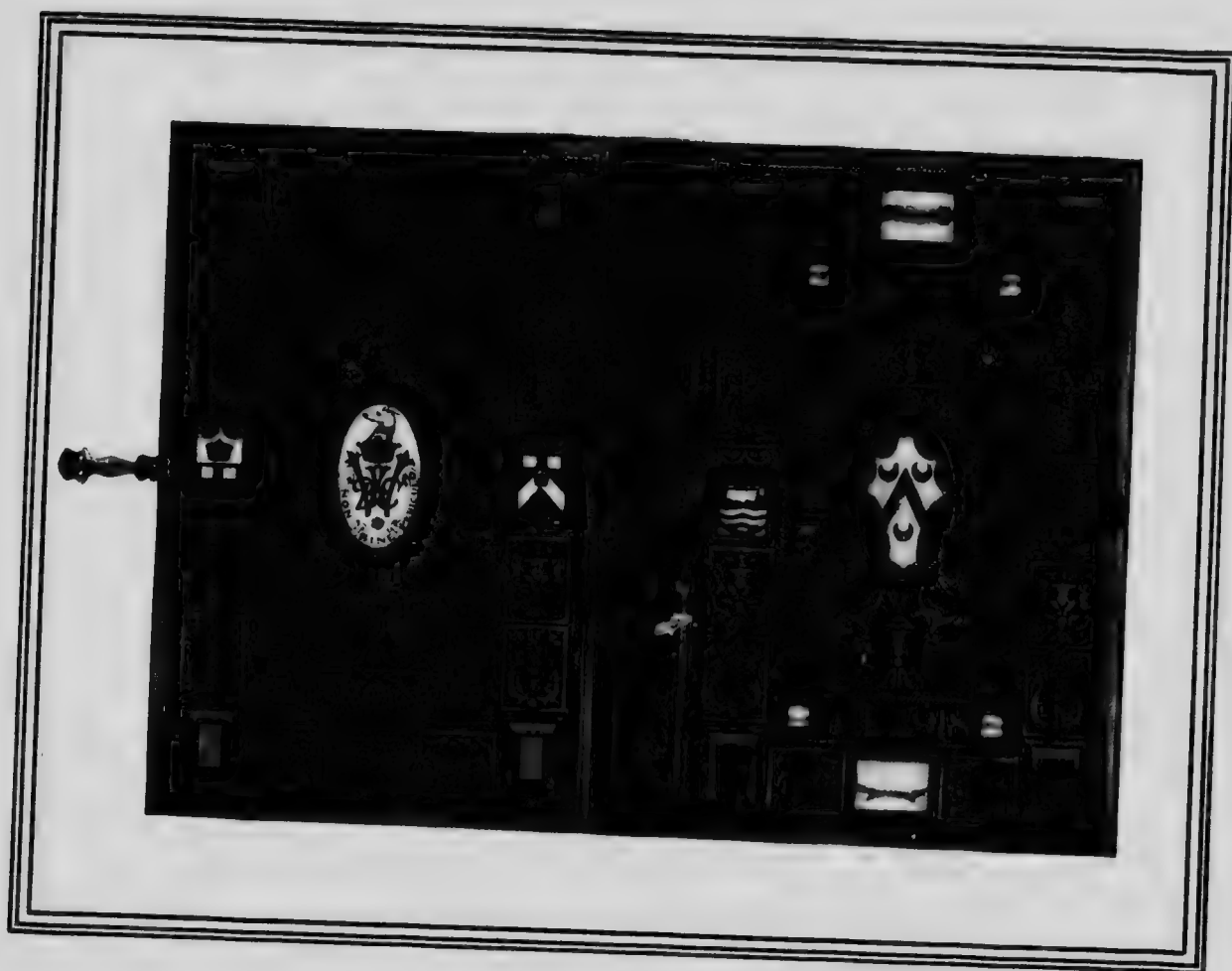
Sir Edmund's services to the Bank cannot be over-estimated. His great executive abilities and wide knowledge of business and financial affairs have been made use of on many occasions by Governments and public bodies in Canada and in the United States of America.

During his long business life he has been active in many ways in promoting the interests of the public, especially in connection with education, art, music, museums and early Canadian history, but at all times the interests of The Canadian Bank of Commerce were first, and he gave to it the benefit of the knowledge, experience and high standing which he acquired in these various ways.

The Board of Directors have asked him to honour them by his presence at a public dinner on the 24th instant at the King Edward Hotel, Toronto, to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the day when he entered the service of the Bank.

Signed on behalf of the Directors of The Canadian Bank of Commerce.

Z. A. LASH, Vice-President.  
JOHN AIRD, Gen. Manager.



Cover of blue velvet with the  
gold plates, enriched with  
crystals, synthetic rubies  
and coloured enamels.



**I**N supplement to the formal language of a Resolution it is fitting that this record of appreciation, indebtedness, and affection should contain some further comment upon the nature of Sir Edmund's achievement. What he has wrought for The Canadian Bank of Commerce is not only writ large upon the face of that Institution, but extends throughout the whole structure to its very foundations. Yet all the effort which this result implies is only one of the many forms through which his versatile, untiring, and constructive imagination has found expression.

Through a boyhood association with his Uncle he was led to become a banker, but it is clearly indicated that under somewhat different circumstances he could have reached a place of marked distinction in science, literature, or public life. A man of many avocations, he has at no time suffered his energy to be dissipated by an excessive division of interests. Although at the parting of the roads in early life he might well have selected a different objective, he has steadily pursued his course on a well-marked line to a definite and high-set goal. Viewed as an institution of national and international status The Canadian Bank of Commerce is his monument.

To say this is not to disparage the contribution of others who collaborated in a great task with loyal zeal and eminent ability, but by common consent it was Sir Edmund whose leadership enabled the Bank to fill the place that his own clear-sighted vision had marked out for it in days of doubt and trial. "An institution," says Emerson, "is but the lengthened shadow of a man." Nor is this saying less true in the field of finance than in that of politics or of morals. Through his own vigorous and sympathetic personality Sir Edmund was enabled to endow the Bank with a tradition that it can never lose while those remain who have been inspired by his own doctrine and example—the tradition that an institution can only function through the minds and souls of the individuals who are united for common service through the forms which it provides.

Drawing strength from this practical and vital principle, the Bank under Sir Edmund's guidance has become an institution which is distinguished throughout by the responsiveness, self-respect, and high purpose of its members—a community pervaded by healthy individualism, yet conforming its actions to method and law. In shaping the structure nothing has been left to accident, caprice, or favoritism. The Bank is a living, healthy, beneficent organism, because from the first Sir Edmund knew how men of the right type could be drawn to its staff,



The first two pages are executed in colour and burnished gold.

and how, when once enlisted, they could be retained. Always behind one capable official stands another, ready to succeed to the responsibility, whatever it may be. Nor has this happened through accident. It represents the spirit which Sir Edmund has communicated from his own being to an institution that touches the life of the world through five hundred branches.

It has sometimes happened that men endowed opulently by nature with great creative gifts have failed to focus their attention closely upon any single task, thus conveying to posterity the impression that they were lacking in purpose. From the risk of such reproach Sir Edmund's fame is guarded by his extraordinary success in the sphere of banking. Based upon this solid groundwork, there is no risk that the reputation for comprehensive and diversified ability which he has enjoyed among his contemporaries will seem to those of a later time marred by inability to concentrate. To do one important thing superlatively well while accomplishing much in many other fields is the rarest achievement, and the most desirable.

Outside banking, Sir Edmund's activities have been marked not only by breadth of range, but by great resultant benefit to the public interest. It was not through accident, ambition, or mere mental dynamics that he entered upon those other works which have added lustre to his total accomplishment. These interests, like the upbuilding of the Bank, represent the normal unfolding of a mind and character. In all that was said at the Jubilee Banquet, nothing stands out more significantly than Sir Edmund's own words regarding the home in which he grew up: "At home I never heard money talked about, except perhaps the need of it, which was always the case. We talked about flowers, music, fossils, science, a new poem or novel—nothing very learned or difficult. I was taught to appreciate that the truth regarding nature was the divine thing, and that we must learn it, so far as it is possible."

From such a source flowed the broad stream of enthusiasms (literary, artistic, scientific, historical, musical and educational) which have meant so much to Sir Edmund in his own life, and to so many others, through the active zeal whereby he transmuted enthusiasm into works. Toronto University, the Art Museum of Toronto, the Royal Ontario Museum, the Advisory Arts Council, the National Gallery of Arts, the National Battlefields Commission, the Historical Manuscripts Commission, the Champlain Society, the Geological Society, the Mendelssohn Choir—these, even as mere headings, show the range of his interests, while to



The Walker Coat-of-Arms  
and the commencement of  
Dr. Colby's appreciation.



those who have collaborated with him on behalf of the great causes which these names suggest, the value of his contribution must ever seem pre-eminent. In all cases it has represented a most unusual blending of broad grasp, technical knowledge, and administrative capacity.

To sum up, Sir Edmund Walker has illustrated the best in citizenship, for his great gifts have not been selfishly sequestered, but devoted freely to broad, untiring effort for the common good. "By their fruits ye shall know them," is at once his highest praise and the most vivid comment upon his career; nor can it ever be forgotten that his acts were illuminated by a kindliness, interest and sympathy which enabled him, while accomplishing much for the community, to touch the depths of personal affection.

# CHRONOLOGICAL TABLE

## SIR EDMUND WALKER

- 1848—Born in the Township of Seneca, Ontario, son of Mr. Alfred K. Walker.
  - 1861—Entered the office of his uncle, Mr. J. W. Murton, a private banker.
  - 1868—Entered the service of The Canadian Bank of Commerce.
  - 1873—Junior Agent in New York.
  - 1874—Married Mary, daughter of Mr. A. Alexander, of Hamilton, Ontario.
  - 1875—Manager at Windsor, Ontario.
  - 1878—Manager at London, Ontario.
  - 1879—Inspector of the Bank.
  - 1880—Manager at Hamilton, Ontario.
  - 1881—Joint Agent in New York.
  - 1886—General Manager of the Bank.
  - 1891—Chairman, Bankers' Section, Toronto Board of Trade.
  - 1892—Trustee, University of Toronto.
  - 1893—Vice-President, Canadian Bankers' Association.
  - 1893—Senator, University of Toronto.
  - 1894—President, Canadian Bankers' Association.
  - 1897—President, Toronto Guild of Civic Art.
  - 1898—President, The Canadian Institute.
  - 1899—Chairman of the Royal Commission on the Financial Position of the Province of Ontario.
  - 1900—Honorary President, Mendelssohn Choir, Toronto.  
President, The Art Museum of Toronto.
  - 1904—Chairman, Section of Money and Credit, International Congress of Arts and Sciences, Universal Exposition, St Louis, Mo.  
D.C.L. (Hon.) Trinity University, Toronto.
  - 1905—President, Champlain Society.
  - 1905—Member, Royal Commission on Reorganization of the University of Toronto.
  - 1906—Governor, University of Toronto, and LL.D. (Hon.).
  - 1907—President of the Bank.  
Member of Advisory / a Council.
  - 1908—Member, National Battlefields Commission.  
Created a Commander of the Victorian Order by His Majesty King Edward the Seventh.
  - 1909—Chairman, Advisory Arts Council.
  - 1910—Chairman, Board of Governors, University of Toronto.  
Created Knight Bachelor by His Majesty King George the Fifth.  
Created a Knight of Grace of the Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem in England.
  - 1911—Founded Appleby School for Boys, Oakville, Ontario.
  - 1912—Chairman, Board of Trustees of the Royal Ontario Museum.  
Chairman, Canadian Peace Centenary Association.  
Member, Historical Manuscripts Commission.
  - 1913—Chairman, Board of Trustees, The National Gallery of Canada.
  - 1916—Honorary Treasurer, Appeal in Aid of the War Work of the British Red Cross Society.
  - 1917—Chairman, Toronto Executive of the British Red Cross Appeal, 1917.  
Chairman, Board of Governors, Toronto Conservatory of Music.  
Honorary Member, Lawyers' Club, New York.
- 
- Fellow of Geological Society (Eng.);  
Institute of Bankers (Eng.); Royal  
Economic Society (Eng.); Royal  
Colonial Institute (Eng.); Royal  
Society of Canada.

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